

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INSE-00 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX :CPTORREY:MRG

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PROBLEM

REF: MEXICO 8863

1. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL GOM PUBLIC UTTERANCES ON THE ILLEGAL ALIEN PROBLEM AND ESPECIALLY THOSE STATEMENTS REFERRING TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR A RENEWED BRACERO PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE REASONING BEHIND THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION THAT THE FINDINGS OF THE CRAMTON REPORT MIGHT USEFULLY BE MADE KNOWN IN MEXICO. HOWEVER, WE AND OTHER USG DEPARTMENTS ARE CURRENTLY RE-ASSESSING THE TOTAL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PROBLEM AND WOULD AT THIS TIME PREFER NOT TO ENTER INTO WHAT COULD BECOME A PRESS POLEMIC WITH THE GOM. WE FEEL, THEREFORE, THAT WE SHOULD NOT NOW INTENTIONALLY PUBLICIZE IN MEXICO THE DETAILS OF THE CRAMTON REPORT, EVEN THOUGH THAT REPORT WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC LAST JULY. COPIES OF THE CRAMTON REPORT WERE PROVIDED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE MEXICAN STUDY GROUP WHICH WAS HERE IN JULY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN DID NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE POLICY OF THE USG. THAT

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IMPORTANT UNDERSTANDING COULD EASILY BE LOST OR PURPOSELY

IGNORED BY THE MEXICAN PRESS.

2. THE ABOVE COMMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN MEXICO BY GOM OFFICIALS HAVE ELICITED PRESS INQUIRIES HERE, AND WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD NOT REMAIN MUTE TO THESE INQUIRIES LEST OUR SILENCE BE MISINTERPRETED BY CONGRESS, US LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE PRESS.

3. GUIDANCE PREPARED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS FOR THE NOON BRIEFING IS BEING SENT SEPTEL. KISSINGER

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